

**TOWN of DARIEN**  
**MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION**  
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

RECEIVED  
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
DARIEN CT

**Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Meeting Minutes**

**May 8, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Chairman, Phil Kraft with the following Commissioners present: Ed Carabillo, Marian Castell, John Geoghegan, Roland Holub, Dave Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Charles Scribner, Sueann Schorr, and George Walsh. Also attending were Winifred Lom representing the DAR and Pam Zago representing SOS (Support Our Soldiers) at Darien High School.

Minutes of the April 10, meeting were accepted as read with the correction of Charles Scribner's name on page one, paragraph 6. Motion by D. Polett, second by Ed Carabillo.

Chairman Kraft reminded members that this will be the last Memorial Day Parade that we will have an integral part in planning. Next year, as discussed with the First Selectwoman, we will only be responsible for the ceremony at the cemetery. Hopefully, there will be another group in place to run the 2013 Memorial Day Parade. Our Commission will then be available to concentrate on various Darien Town Monuments and Ceremonies including September 11, Veteran's Day, Flag Day, etc.

Chairman Kraft went over the Master List of responses and noted that the Grand Marshall will recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The Parade and Ceremony Instruction Sheet was distributed and discussed. See attached Instruction Sheet and Master List for groups attending and their locations. The Parade Map was displayed and this year cars will park side by side parallel to and against the islands which should double our space. The Registration Desk will be manned by Marian Castell, Rolly Holub, Karen Polett, Becky Siciliano, and Bob Riith with Phil, Ken, Ed and Dave helping if possible. Again this year, Dave will serve as a floater wherever needed. Phil went over the Order of March, pointing out the location of Police, the SOS students, etc. A car is needed for the Grand Marshall, John Geoghegan. Craig and Sueann Schorr will be the speakers.

Phil Kraft will lead Division 1; Ed Carabillo will lead Division 2; Charles Scribner will lead Division 3 and Ken Reiss will lead Division 4.

Clergy will be contacted by Sue who will invite Dr. Rosenberger to do the benediction; John will invite Rev. McGrath to give the invocation. Karen will contact Springdale Florist to obtain a wreath. Phil will contact Park and Recreation about erecting both the cemetery platform and the newly purchased reviewing stand. Bob Riith is responsible for obtaining the permissions and insurance and is working with Linda O'Leary on this. Boy Scouts are needed for the reviewing stand.

The Maritime Ceremony will be held on June 16, near the Darien Boat Club. Jim Baker has been contacted by Dave Polett. Our Commission will supply a wreath.

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

If email addresses can be found, the following dignitaries will be invited: Bob Duff, Terri Wood, Jim Himes, Carlo Leone, William Tong.

Commissioners were reminded to be at the cemetery at 7:30 AM to help in hanging the bunting and arranging chairs, placing the generator, and checking the speaker system, etc.

Karen mentioned that we need to plan for the Tokeneke (Old White Bridge) Bridge plaque dedication in 2012, which marks the plaque's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Commission has discussed the placement of a bench and the plaque near its original location on the Norwalk/Darien line. Also, the Fitch Memorial and tree from Gettysburg located on the grounds of the former Fitch Home for Soldiers on Noroton Avenue need to be incorporated into the newly planned housing complex. The tree may need to be transplanted and we must remain vigilant so that these monuments are preserved.

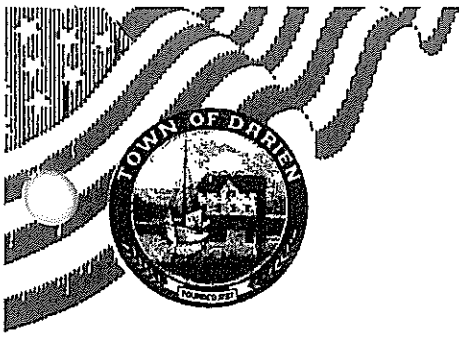
Charles Scribner received permission to order 8 dozen new flags on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Karen Polett.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Carabillo, second by Dave Polett. The next meeting will be held at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, June 11.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary



**TOWN of DARIEN**  
**MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION**  
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

Dear Participant:

Welcome to the Darien Memorial Day Parade! Please reply via email ([DarienParade@optonline.net](mailto:DarienParade@optonline.net)) to let us know you have received it.

Attached you will find the map to the muster area. You are in DIVISION \_\_\_\_ . The abbreviation for your marching unit is \_\_\_\_ . Watch for the large blue numbers displayed in the parking lot. If you can't find it on the map, please contact us immediately.

Also attached find a full page of 3 "Parade Vehicle" passes for display on windshields of vehicles in the parade. Print more if you need them.

## **MEMORIAL DAY Monday, May 28, 2012**

### **Parade and Ceremony Instructions**



*ALL positions are different from last year. We strongly urge you to make copies of these instructions available to all participating members of your group.*

The parade is a procession to the Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery to honor those who died in service of our country. The spirit of the parade is to celebrate the lives of our war dead. Participants are encouraged to identify the organizations they represent, but are requested to refrain from advertisements or promotion of events that have nothing to do with Memorial Day.

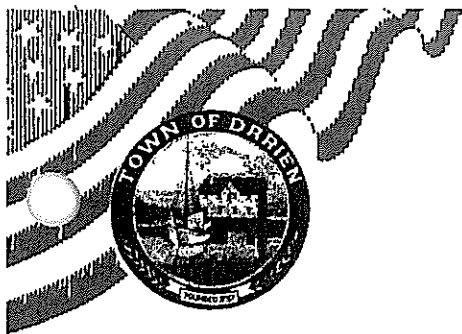
**Assembly and Registration 9-9:30am:** All units must register at the Registration Station at the entrance of the Goodwives Shopping Center, Old Kings Highway North, starting at 9:00am. You will be directed to your assigned spot. Signs will indicate where each division will assemble. Please be in your assigned position no later than 9:30am. Step off at 10am sharp.

*Children's Marching Units: If yours is a children's group, PLEASE make sure you have a responsible adult in place EARLY ENOUGH to ensure the confidence of parents dropping off children. The biggest traffic issue has been parents who linger, waiting for an adult in charge to show up!*

**NO Parking at Assembly Area--Drop-off ONLY:** Police will be directing traffic. The parking lot at Goodwives is the Assembly Area for marchers and parade vehicles only. There is to be **no** parade parking. Please remember that the Shopping Center is open to shoppers, and parking lanes must be kept open. *Vehicles left in the Goodwives Shopping Center parking area jeopardize future use of the parking lot.* Parking is available in the Mechanic Street lot



*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*



**TOWN of DARIEN**  
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behind the Darien Fire Department during the parade. Please advise everyone in your organization about these parking rules.

**Special Instructions:**

- (1) No alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the Assembly Area, in the line of march, or during the ceremonies.
- (2) Parade Officials will be in charge of their assigned division.
- (3) There will be NO throwing of candy, toys, or any other items from the participants in the Assembly Area, along the Parade Route, or at the end of the parade. Violators will be removed from the parade.

*Parade Route* • From Goodwives Shopping Center, right to Brookside Road; bear left to Post Road; turn left. Continue west on Post Road, to Hecker Avenue. Marchers and vehicles will continue on Post Road and disperse in an orderly fashion in front of the cemetery. Vehicles will *not* turn into the Cemetery.

*Length of Parade* • Approximately 1.25 miles. Make sure all marchers are able to complete the parade.

*Marching* • Parade Officials will maintain a uniform cadence. Units are requested to *not* cross-march, half-step, split or perform drill procedures in the line of march. The parade will maintain a steady forward march at all times. All units will maintain a reasonable distance from the unit in front of them. All marching units will march at least SIX (6) abreast, with the exception of color guards.

*Reviewing Stand* • Will be located in front of Miller Automobile Company on the Post Road. The parade will be reviewed there by the Grand Marshal and other dignitaries.

*Cemetery Ceremony* • Please join us at the Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery to pay respect to the military people who have preserved our freedom with the ultimate sacrifice.

*Emergencies* • In case of emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance, etc.) the parade will move to the RIGHT side of the road, and the necessary apparatus or vehicles will pass on the left side of the road. Take extreme care.

*By order of the Board of Selectmen - Monuments and Ceremonies Commission*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

CURB OF EACH ISLAND IN DIRECTION OF ARROW.  
LEAVE A CENTER LANE OPEN (SEE ARROW)

Stop&Shop

POST 43  
CT N GD  
2  
PIPER  
DIV 2 Ldr

CT PAR  
AM LEG veh  
1  
USMC  
PAID veh

VFW  
VFW CG

DHS BAND  
OFFICIALS  
SPR

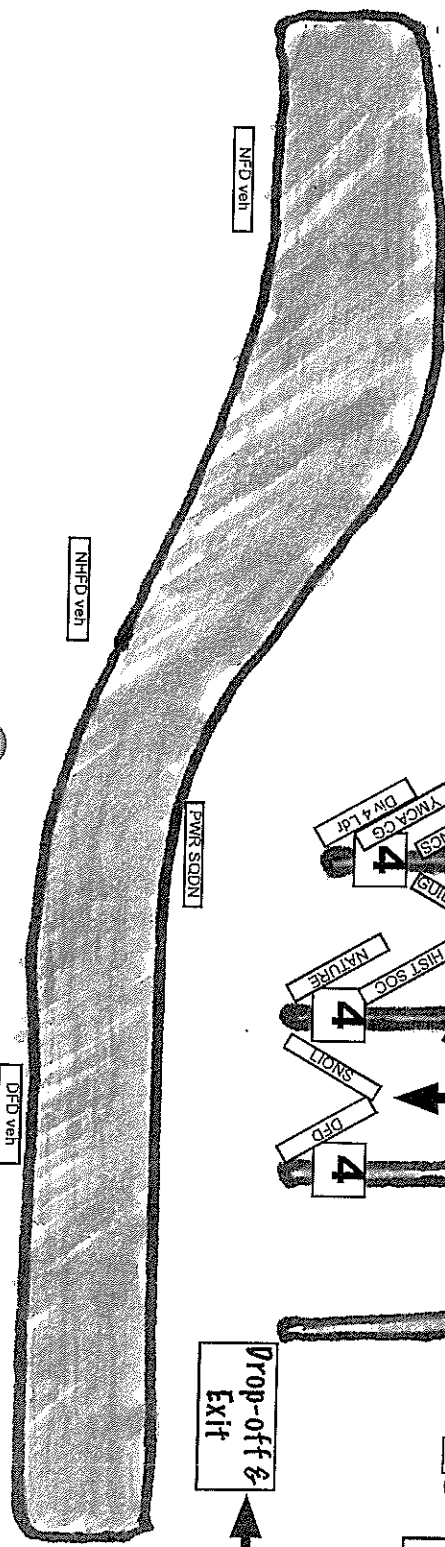
G.M.

1  
DPD CG

DIV 1 Ldr

POST 53 veh  
CT N GD veh

OR COMM  
2  
NFD  
2  
SR MEN  
DEPOT  
KIWANIS  
ARTS CNCL  
PIVOT  
COM FUND  
Wms veh  
3  
CUB 55  
CUB 155  
NP SHAC  
GREEN  
3  
GALVANT  
NHFD AUX  
P 2 P  
CALV BC  
MASON  
DCA  
CAR  
YMWCA  
YMWCA GYM  
YMWCA  
3  
CUB 56  
CUB 161  
3  
YMWCA CG  
DIV 4 Ldr  
GUID PRNCS  
GUID PRNCS  
4  
MATURE  
HIST SOC  
LIONS  
4  
SNR  
4  
DPD  
4  
BOOK AID  
Laur veh  
EYES  
HOPE  
RISH  
GLBL GIRLS  
Customer Parking  
Customer Parking  
Customer Parking  
Customer Parking  
Customer Parking  
Customer Parking  
Drop-off & Exit  
Parade Vehicles & Shoppers



NAME/ORGANIZATION	ABB	Order	Div
*Division 1: Phil Kraft	Div 1 Ldr	aFirst	1-00
Darlen Police Department&Color Guard	DPD CG	aFirst	1-01
* Grand Marshal	G M	aFirst	1-02
* Speaker	SPKR	aFirst	1-03
*First Selectman		aFirst	1-04
*Town & State Officials	OFFICIALS	aFirst	1-05
*Pledge of Allegiance Leader (Police veh.)	Pledge	aFirst	1-06
Darlen High School Band	DHS BAND	aFirst	1-07
VFW Post 6933 Color Guard	VFW CG	aFirst	1-08
VFW Post 6933 + Veterans	VFW	aFirst	1-09
Antique Vehicles (3)(Pat DiMattio)	PatD veh	aFirst	1-09.5
Marine Corps League (Lock City Det.)	USMC	aFirst	1-10
<del>Military Order of the Purple Heart</del>	<del>MOPH</del>	<del>aFirst</del>	<del>1-11</del>
CT Patriot Guard	CT PGR	aFirst	1-12
American Legion Post 3 (vehicles)	AM LEG veh	aFirst	1-13
*Division 2: Ed Caraballo	Div 2 Ldr	bSecond	2-00
Bagpiper-Div. 2	PIPER	bSecond	2-01
Connecticut National Guard	CT NAT GD	bSecond	2-02
Darlen EMS-Post 53	POST 53	bSecond	2-03
*Darlen Post 53 (vehicles)	POST 53 veh	bSecond	2-04
<del>Darlen Red Cross</del>	<del>RED CROSS</del>	<del>bSecond</del>	<del>2-05</del>
Darlen Kiwanis	KIWANIS	bSecond	2-06
Depot (The)	DEPOT	bSecond	2-07
Darlen Chamber of Commerce	CH COMM	bSecond	2-08
Darlen Arts Council	ARTS CNCL	bSecond	2-09
Senior Men's Association	SR MEN	bSecond	2-10
<del>PIVOT</del>	<del>PIVOT</del>	<del>bSecond</del>	<del>2-11</del>
The Community Fund of Darlen	COM FUND	bSecond	2-12
Antique Vehicle (Williams)	Wms veh	bSecond	2-13
Noroton Fire Dept.	NFD	bSecond	2-14
<del>Noroton Fire Dept. Apparatus</del>	<del>NFD veh</del>	<del>bSecond</del>	<del>2-15</del>

Girl Scouts of Darlen	G S A	cThird	3-02
Boy Scouts-Troop 35	BSA 35	cThird	3-03
Boy Scouts-Troop 53 Co-Chairs	BSA 53	cThird	3-03
Boy Scouts-Troop 53 Co-Chairs	BSA 53	cThird	3-04
Cub Scouts-Pack 55	CUB 55	cThird	3-05
Cub Scouts-Pack 56	CUB 56	cThird	3-06
Cub Scouts-Pack 155	CUB 155	cThird	3-07
Cub Scouts-Pack 161	CUB 161	cThird	3-08
Noro. Presby. "The Shac"	NP SHAC	cThird	3-09
The Green Team	GREEN	cThird	3-09.5
Darlen YMCA	YWCA	cThird	3-09.5
Darlen YMCA Gymnastics Team	YWCA GYM	cThird	3-10
Person-to-Person (Kid-to-Kid)	P 2 P	cThird	3-11
Darlen Senior Activities Ctr.	SR ACT CTR	cThird	3-11.5
Gallivant	GALVNT	cThird	3-12
D.A.R. Good Wife's River Chapter	D.A.R.	cThird	3-12.5
C.A.R. Capt. David Hawley Society	C.A.R.	cThird	3-12.6
Darlen Community Assn	DCA	cThird	3-13
Masonic Lodge, Darlen-Ivanhoe #107	MASONS	cThird	3-14
Calvary Baptist Church	CALV BC	cThird	3-15
Noroton Heights Fire Dept.	NHFD	cThird	3-16
Noroton Heights Fire Dept. Auxillary	NHFD AUX	cThird	3-17

<del>Noroton Heights Fire Dept. Apparatus</del>	<del>NHFD veh</del>	<del>cThird</del>	<del>3-17</del>
*Division 4: Ken Reiss	Div 4 Ldr	dFourth	4-00
Darlen YMCA Color Guard	YMCA CG	dFourth	4-01
Darlen YMCA Guides/Princesses	GUID PRNCS	dFourth	4-02
Darlen YMCA Guides/Princesses	GUID PRNCS	dFourth	4-02
Darlen YMCA Guides/Princesses	GUID PRNCS	dFourth	4-02
Darlen Nature Center	NATURE	dFourth	4-03
Darlen Historical Society	HIST SOC	dFourth	4-04
Guiding Eyes for the Blind	EYES	dFourth	4-05
Center for Hope	HOPE	dFourth	4-06
Global Girls UNITE	GLBL GIRLS	dFourth	4-06.5
Pender-Keady Irish Arts Fndtn	IRISH	dFourth	4-07
Darlen Lions Club	LIONS	dFourth	4-08
<del>Antique Vehicle (Keontz)</del>	<del>Kntz veh</del>	<del>dFourth</del>	<del>4-09.5</del>
St. John's Youth Group	ST JOHN	dFourth	4-10
Darlen Book Aid	BOOK AID	dFourth	4-11
Darlen Sail & Power Squadron	PWR SQDN	dFourth	4-12
Darlen Fire Dept.	DFD	dFourth	4-13
Darlen Fire Dept. Auxillary	DFD AUX	dFourth	4-14
*Darlen Fire Dept. Apparatus	DFD veh	dFourth	4-15
Darlen Tudor Singers	TUDOR	eFifth	5-01
Support Our Soldiers (SOS)	SOS	eFifth	5-02
ITP Foundation	ITP	eFifth	5-03
Antique Vehicle (Lauer)	Laur veh	eFifth	5-04

*This parade is dedicated  
to the memory of  
Philip A. Morehouse,  
co-founder of the  
Monuments and  
Ceremonies  
Commission.*

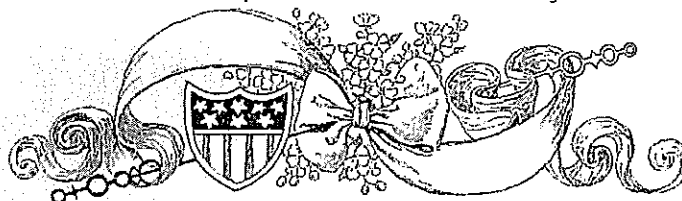
Prayer of Invocation: . . . . .	Msgr. Frank C. McGrath, St. John R.C. Church
Introductions: . . . . .	Phillip Kraft, Monuments and Ceremonies Commission
Pledge of Allegiance: . . . . .	Grand Marshal John Geoghegan
Names of Darien Men Killed in Wars: . . . . .	Jayme J. Stevenson, First Selectman (Three rings of the bell reflects respect and honor to those who gave their lives to their duty.)
General Logan's Order No. 11, Grand Army of the Republic:	Life Scout Andrew Fletcher, Troop 53
National Anthem: . . . . .	Darien High School Tudor Singers
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: . . . . .	Cadette Scout Katie Schorr, Troop 50535
"America, The Beautiful": . . . . .	Tudor Singers
Speakers: . . . . .	Commander Sueann K. Schorr, USN Commander Craig T. Schorr, USN
Presentation of Memorial Wreaths: . . . . .	Grand Marshal, Speakers, and First Selectman Stevenson
Military Salute: . . . . .	Darien VFW Honor Guard
Taps: . . . . .	Channing Pear and Jack Neary, Darien High School Band
Prayer of Benediction: . . . . .	Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, 1st Congregational Church of Darien

103d Airlift Wing, CT Military Department  
Special Thanks To:

**HONOR GUARDS - Reviewing Stand:**  
 First Class Scout Nick Hill Troop 35  
 Cadette Scout Katie Cunningham Troop 50535  
 Cadette Scout Lorena DeCaprio Troop 50535

TROOPS 35 & 53, BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA  
GIRL SCOUTS of AMERICA  
MILLER AUTOMOBILE CORP.  
SPRING GROVE CEMETERY  
GOODWIVES CENTER LTD.  
NOROTON FIRE DEPT.  
CHRISTOPHER ANDRADE  
CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICES FUND, INC.

And to all the others who helped make this Memorial Day Observance possible.



## THE ORIGIN OF MEMORIAL DAY

The custom of honoring our war dead on a special day was begun in 1868, when General John A. Logan a Civil War hero and the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Union veterans organization in Washington designated the 30th day of May be observed as a day for "strewing with flower or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

That custom became a tradition when the GAR made honoring Civil War dead a civic duty for all citizens. Until 1882, the practice of placing flowers at gravesites was then known as Decoration Day.

Perhaps the most profound tribute of all was made on the first national memorial observance in May 1868 by another hero of the war General James A. Garfield who was to become the 20th President of the United States, when he said: "they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue."

A number of States legalized May 30th as Memorial Day and an Act of Congress, approved on August 1, 1888, made Memorial Day a legal holiday. The National Holiday Act of 1971 (Public Law 90-363) declared it a national holiday and placed it on the last Monday in May.

## DARIEN ROLL of HONOR

Darien residents who answered the call and made the supreme sacrifice  
during America's wars

### CIVIL WAR, 1861 - 1865

CARL ACHERMAN	WILLIAM H. HOWMAN	FRANKLIN H. SCOFIELD
JAMES H. BATES	EDWARD S. HOYT	ALBERT O. SEELEY
LEWIS H. BENEDICT	ISAAC L. HOYT	SILAS F. SLAWSON
JOSEPH BUSHY	ELIAS JOHNSON	THOMAS SMITH
NATHAN R. BYXBEE	GEORGE D. JORDAN	JACOB W. VINCENT
CHARLES H. CLOCK	FRANK LAROCHE	JOSEPH VOID
HORACE CURTIS	SAMUEL MAGLUE	ISAAC WEED
PHILLIP FORTUNE	JOHN MALLON	RAYMOND WEED
MICHAEL HARMON	WILLIAM H. NORTHROP	ADOLPH WERNER
FREDERICK HENDERSON	GABRIEL W. PLATT	JAMES A. WHALEY
WILLIAM H. HOWE	JOHN PRICE	GEORGE W. WILMOT

### WORLD WAR ONE, 1917 - 1918

DAVID C. BISPHAM	WILFRED T. LOWNDES	EDWARD G. PUNZELT
LAWRENCE F. CALLAHAN	MURTAGH C. McDONALD	ERNEST F. SEXTON
MARTIN H. GILL		GEORGE STRAKA

### WORLD WAR TWO, 1941 - 1945

SANFORD ADAMS	RAYMOND L. HOWE	KENNETH C. PHILLIPS
ERIC ALLEN	PASQUALE G. IMPROTA	JOHN PYNE
WILLIAM A. AYCRIGG II	LAWRENCE H. ISBELL	LOUIS E. RAYNER
ELTON S. BARRETT	THOMAS W. JENKINS	THOMAS F. RENDLER
ORRIN K. BOICE	JEFFERSON M. JOHNSON	DAVID L. ROSENBERG
JAMES BUTTS	JOHN L. MASTERSON	CHARLES B. ROSSI
JOSEPH A. CHASE	GEORGE R. MILLER	GORDON S. SMITH
PETER T. CHESTER	ALAN R. MOREHOUSE	THOMAS F. SMITH
HORACE G. CLEVELAND III	ARTHUR L. NIELSEN	STEPHEN J. TANSAK
LOUIS COTALING	WILLIAM T. O'NEILL, JR.	TORGER D. TOKLE
DAVID O. DEVLIN	FRANCIS W. O'TOOLE	JULIUS W. TOROK
ANTHONY R. FRATE	OTIS OVERTON	ANTHONY VITTI
DONALD FROTHINGHAM, JR.	ROSARIO F. PALUMBERI	CLARENCE C. WALKER
	HAROLD D. PARADY	

### KOREAN WAR 1950 - 1953

GEORGE R. BROADHURST  
JAMES A. DOOLEY, JR.  
EUGENE MURPHY  
JULIUS C. NACCI  
ROBERT J. PERKINSON

### VIETNAM WAR, 1958 - 1975

ALAN L. DIEDRICKSEN  
JOHN B. GIESEN, JR.  
JAMES S. MCARTHUR  
DAVID I. MIXTER  
WILLIAM R. PATIENCE, JR.  
JOHN B. SHERMAN

## MONUMENTS AND CEREMONIES COMMISSION

EDWARD CARABILLO  
MARIAN CASTELL  
JOHN GEOGHEGAN

ROLAND HOLUB  
PHILLIP R. KRAFT  
DUANE LOVELLO\*  
DAVID POLETT

KAREN POLETT  
KEN REISS  
ROBERT RIITH  
CHARLES F. SCRIBNER

BECKY SICILIANO  
JAYME J. STEVENSON\*  
GEORGE J. WALSH

(\*denotes ex officio member)

**Subject:** FW: parade agreements  
**From:** Phillip Kraft (darienparade@optonline.net)  
**To:** harley87dp@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Friday, June 1, 2012 12:44 PM

FYI

**From:** "O'Leary, Linda" <loleary@darienct.gov>  
**Date:** Friday, June 1, 2012 12:32 PM  
**To:** Bob Riith <bobriith@aol.com>  
**Cc:** Monuments & Ceremonies <DarienParade@optonline.net>  
**Subject:** parade agreements

Hi Bob,

As usual, the parade was a big hit! I'm just wondering if you have copies of the signed agreements from the Spring Grove Cemetery Assoc. and the Darien Auto Group for our files. Also, I'm not sure if you're staying on the Parade Committee for next year but if you could make a note (for yourself or the next volunteer) that we will need to get the agreement from Urstadt Biddle Properties in the Selectman's office earlier so that it can be reviewed by the Town's attorney and insurance carrier. Apparently, there is wording in the agreement in need of some review. Thank you.

Best,

Linda

Linda O'Leary

Executive Assistant

Town of Darien

2 Renshaw Road

Darien, CT 06820

p. 203.656.7333 | f. 203.656.7389

[loleary@darienct.gov](mailto:loleary@darienct.gov)

Hello All,

I've been thinking about the unfortunate Gettysburg tree incident and really want to avoid anything like this error in the future. Our Monuments and Ceremonies Commission really needs to be more pro active on this issue. We can plan a re-dedication, obtain a tree from the Gettysburg battlefield, and also work on securing and supervising the safe moving of the two Fitch monuments (let's have no confusion or chips or bits broken on these precious remaining stones). I also like the idea of saving some of the bricks from the Fitch apartment building for future use as a memorial walkway or something meaningful...and lasting! A member of our Commission can be on site when the stones are moved and when the apartment building is demolished if we are notified.

As a first step, I will research obtaining a new tree. Ideas appreciated. Also, I think it would be entirely appropriate to invite the surviving members of the original tree planters from the 1992 photo dedication with Jayme replacing Hank Sanders, of course and include some other officials and definitely members of the former Allen O'Neill community, etc. and a rep from the Housing Authority. I know Chick and I are still in town and John Rooney, Jantina Atkinson, and Lynn Hanks are still living elsewhere. I am not sure of Larry Nardine. Our Commission needs to pick up the ball on this one soon!

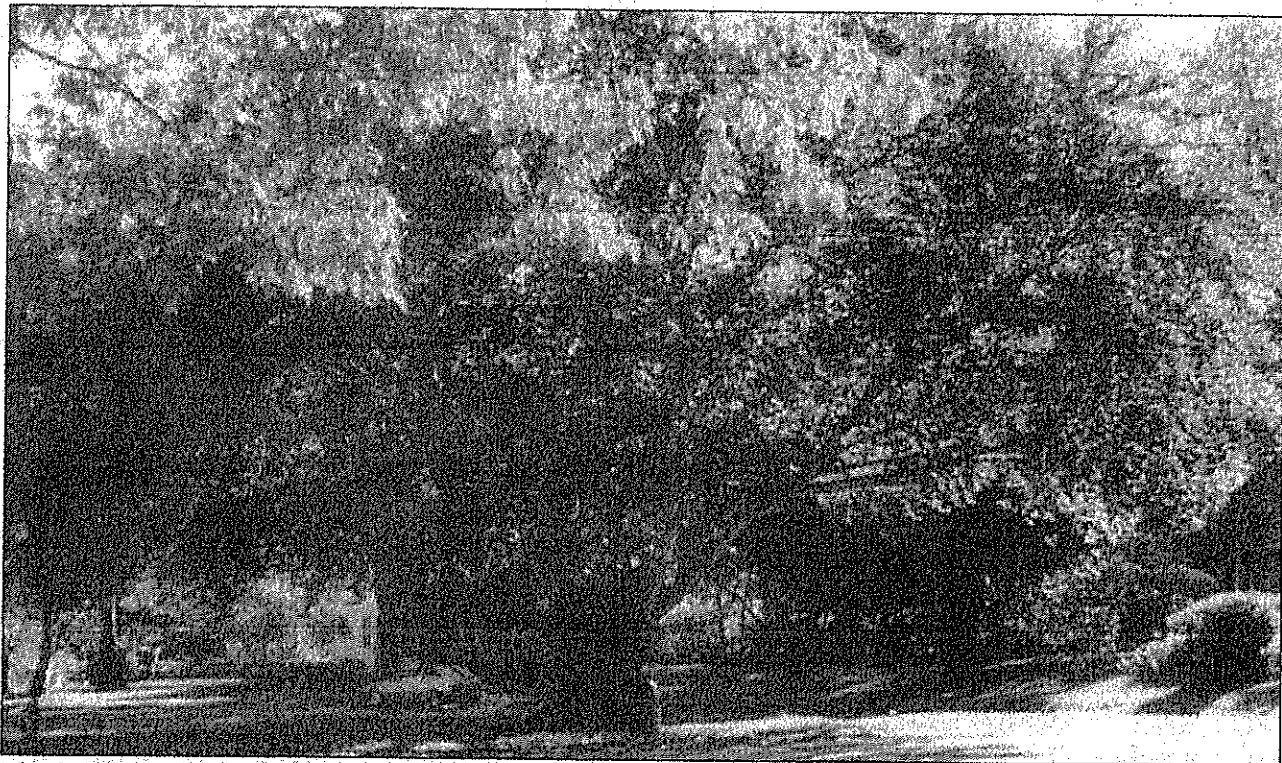
Thankfully, with the Memorial Day Parade taken over by a sub-committee, we will have more time to devote to safeguarding Darien Monuments now.

Also, remember we also have the Tokeneke Bridge plaque to place this year on its 100th anniversary. Dave Campbell went to great lengths to save this treasure on our behalf, so let's get going on finding a place for this bit of history, too.

I've spoken to Josh about possibly doing a series on Darien's Monuments so hopefully we can avoid any others disappearing. Let's finalize something at our June Monuments meeting. I have copied the Housing Authority Chairman on this so that we can work together. Please pass along to others whose emails I do not have. Thanks.

Karen Polett

*e mailed to  
May 24 Commission,  
Jayme, Cindy, Terrie  
Karen Page*



The first Gettysburg Oak at Allen-O'Neill was diseased and taken down in the 1980s. It was replaced by another sapling from the same battlefield tree 20 years ago. That tree, below, as it appeared last year, was inadvertently cut down this week.

# Darien history ends up in the chipper

## Historic 'Gettysburg Oak Tree' at Allen-O'Neill cut down

**By Joshua Fisher  
and Susan Shultz**  
*The Darien Times*

Sometimes what looks like any other tree — isn't.

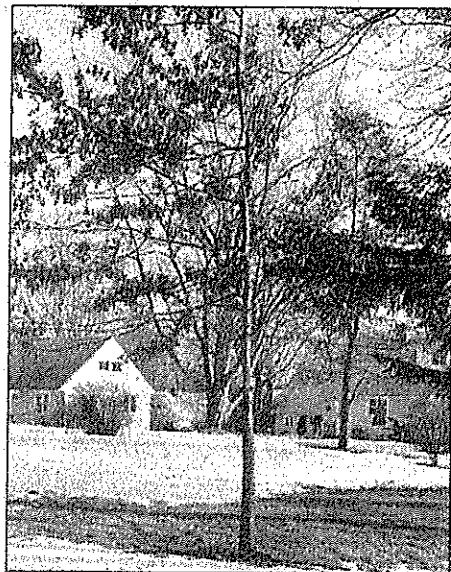
In the case of the Allen-O'Neill Moderate Income Family Homes redevelopment, which broke ground in March, trees coming down are a necessary part of the plan.

But one tree that had meaningful significance to the town's history and to its veterans came down with the rest, despite receiving what some members of the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission say were assurances from the Darien Housing Authority it would be saved.

The "Gettysburg Oak," locat-

ed behind the historic stone that marked where the old Fitch Home for Veterans once stood, was grown from an acorn gathered at the site of the battlefield at Gettysburg. The home was the first veterans home of its kind, and housed many Civil War veterans.

It was grown and transplanted to the Allen-O'Neill site on May 30, 1992, at an official dedication ceremony, that included then First Selectman Hank Sanders, who died a few years ago. Then-U.S. Rep Chris Shays, a Darien native, obtained the tree for the Darien site. Many of the Darienites at the ceremony have died in the past 20 years.



See HISTORY on page 14A

# History:

Continued from page 1A

**Members of the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission** are angered and want to know why it was not saved, as they say they were assured it would be.

According to Planning & Zoning Department Director Jeremy Ginsberg, the trees that were removed were all in accordance with the plan filed

He said there was nothing in the plan that referenced a Gettysburg tree or preserving it.

**Darien Housing Authority  
Commissioner Cyndy  
Ashburne agreed.**

"We believe the contractor has only removed trees that were identified on the site plan as filed with the planning department," she said.

in a statement to The Darien Times.

"We are not aware, nor do we believe, that any tree that was not identified for removal

has been disturbed. That being said, we will further investigate and I will get back to you if I get any additional information," she said.

Karen Polett and her husband David, both members of the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission, happened to be driving past the site when they realized the tree was taken down.

When they asked the worker on the site, he pointed to a small cedar tree as the one to be preserved.

"I said, 'This isn't a 20-year-old oak.' He was all apolo-

ogetic. It wasn't his fault," David Polett said.

Karen Polett contacted First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, who she said was surprised it was cut down.

"I'm saddened that a seeming lack of communication regarding the moving and saving of a memorial tree that was significant to Darien wasn't given more consideration," Stevenson said.

"It was a situation that was easily avoided and could have, and should have, been accommodated," she said.

Polett said the tree had been cared for years, and was kept in the late Bob Fatherly's backyard over the 1992 winter during the growth process.

The tree that was mistakenly preserved was obviously not the oak, David Polett said. "It was an 18-inch scruffy cedar that is about two years old," he said.

"All that had to be done was to have one of us on site for five minutes to tell them where the tree is," he said.

Karen Polett said Monuments & Ceremonies has been appealing to every town administration since the project was first initiated to save the tree, and its legacy.

According to minutes from a February 2011 meeting of the Monuments & Ceremonies

Commission, Karen Polett mentions that she talked to Jenny Schwartz, then chairman of the Darien Housing Authority, about preserving the Fitch Monuments and transplanting the oak.

"Jenny assured Karen that both the tree and the several monuments would be preserved and moved to a central place in the housing plan," the minutes read.

Schwartz told The Darien Times Wednesday she did not recall that conversation, and said she could not have assured anyone about the status of preserving trees given the nature of the project and the need to take many trees down.

She also said she thought there had been a historical Gettysburg tree but thought it had died long ago. She said she wasn't sure which specific tree Monuments & Ceremonies was talking about.

There was a Gettysburg oak that predated the most recent one. That one had to be removed because of disease some time in the 1980s. The one planned on Memorial Day in 1992 replaced it.

In minutes from Monuments & Ceremonies' March meeting of this year, it is noted that "We have been assured by the Darien Housing Authority that both the

Fitch Home plaque and the memorial tree from Gettysburg will be safe during the construction at the Allen-O'Neill site."

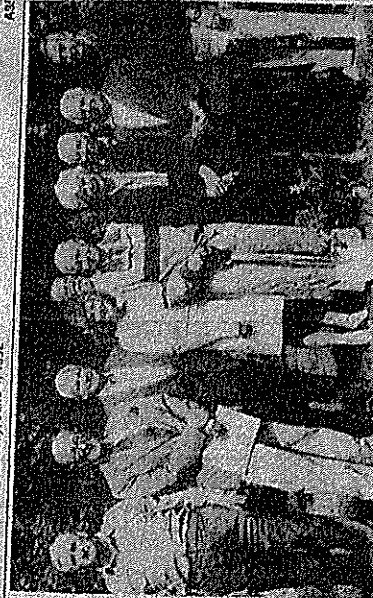
The redevelopment, which would double the developments homes in density and receive approval for \$2.47 million of 9% low income tax credits from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority in late August, kicked off in March.

The plan will double the current 53 single-family homes units to 106 units.

Ashburne told The Dartmouth Times she has never spoken to anyone at Monument & Ceremonies about the Gettysburg Oak.

Pollett, who said these discussions have occurred at various Monuments & Ceremonies, meetings over the last few years, said she is saddened that the tree, and its legacy that meant so much to Dartnites, now and then, is gone.

This is not the first mistake made during the Allen-O'Neill project. Before work began, notice for demolition included the address of Ring's Engine Inc, which is down the street and not part of the project. It, Housing Authority officials said, was a simple mistake and obviously was not in jeopardy of being demolished.



Digging in to preserve history are members of the Durham Monuments and Cemeteries Committee, from left, Lawrence Nardine, Robert E. Fetherley, Henry M. Sander, Karen Pallett, Lynn Hanks, Philip A. Montbome, Janina Alkisson, Charles Scriber, Anthony Inpreiss and Jeff Rober.

## Historians plant oak from Civil War

by the Legislature from the Governor's office. The bill was passed Sunday at the request of the Utah's Senate for soldiers on Northern battlefields.

The trees, which originally grew on the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, Pa., were planted by George W. Dyer, a member of the National Geographic Society and one of the first American soldiers to see the famous battle site. The trees were planted by the American people in 1919 to get

[illegible]

The June 2, 1992, *Darien News-Review* (The *Darien Times* did not exist until 1993) ran an article about the planting of the "Gettysburg Oak" at Allen-O'Neill. This May 30 would have been the 20th anniversary of that planting.

www.DarienTimes.com/opinion

# OPINION

Page Four

The DARIEN TIMES

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

*Founded October 21, 1993*

V. Donald Hersam Jr., publisher  
Joshua Fisher, editor  
Susan Shultz, assistant editor  
Steven Buono, sports editor  
David DesRoches, reporter  
Brian Gioiele, production coordinator  
Elizabeth Coté, Lauren Spicehandler,  
account representatives  
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Jessica Perlinski, marketing director  
Martin V. Hersam, chief operating officer  
Thomas Nash, group publisher  
Member Darien Chamber of Commerce

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## Saving history

The Allen O'Neill redevelopment project faced another challenge this week when a historical tree was cut down in the process of clearing the way for more housing.

While it is not clear how the miscommunication about the "Gettysburg Oak," grown from a seedling from an oak on the historical battlefield, occurred, one thing was made clear in this incident: Though the Darien Housing Authority is a state organization, and while the project is not a "town project," it is a community project. But that site, which once housed the nation's first veterans home — one for the men who fought in the Civil War — is a site rich with history.

Darien is rich with history. And it's important to keep that history alive. And every time a piece of that history is disregarded and bulldozed over, it is a shame.

And it's a shame that the Darien Housing Authority did not take the time to make sure it was preserving its history — our history.

The town is going through a lot of changes these days but we would be wrong to forget where we came from. And we would be wrong to disrespect the men and women who made Darien into this town so many of us love. And it is wrong to not see that that is right.

**Subject:** Re: "Gettysburg Tree"

**From:** jaymejs@aol.com (jaymejs@aol.com)

**To:** JAshburne@aol.com; Harley87dp@yahoo.com; kenreiss@optonline.net;  
jgault@darienhistorical.org; mmctell@aol.com; jstevenson@darienct.gov;  
tamerpebek@optonline.net; BobRiith@aol.com; scribner.mc@sbcglobal.net; edcara@att.net;  
GJWalco@msn.com; JGeoghegan01@snet.net; philkraft@optonline.net;  
darienparade@optonline.net; pmholub@gmail.com; sueann\_schorr@yahoo.com;  
karentipage@yahoo.com; terriewood@aol.com; chipandjan@aol.com; mrclaus@netzero.net;  
allenfdelaney@gmail.com; jwilmotpierret@yahoo.com; aanderson@imagineersllc.com;  
mcclutchyj@groupjhm.com; todd@groupjhm.com; darienhousingkm@yahoo.com;

**Date:** Friday, May 25, 2012 12:27 PM

Cyndy,

I would like to discuss this with you and Mr. McClutchy. With all due respect, I would like Monuments and Ceremonies to take a leadership role in the new tree and monument dedication.

Jayme

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

---

**From:** <JAshburne@aol.com>

**Date:** Fri, 25 May 2012 10:52:22 -0400

**To:** <Harley87dp@yahoo.com>; <kenreiss@optonline.net>; <jgault@darienhistorical.org>;  
<mmctell@aol.com>; <jstevenson@darienct.gov>; <tamerpebek@optonline.net>;  
<BobRiith@aol.com>; <scribner.mc@sbcglobal.net>; <edcara@att.net>;  
<GJWalco@msn.com>; <JGeoghegan01@snet.net>; <philkraft@optonline.net>;  
<darienparade@optonline.net>; <pmholub@gmail.com>; <sueann\_schorr@yahoo.com>;  
<karentipage@yahoo.com>; <terriewood@aol.com>; <chipandjan@aol.com>;  
<mrclaus@netzero.net>; <allenfdelaney@gmail.com>; <jwilmotpierret@yahoo.com>;  
<aanderson@imagineersllc.com>; <mcclutchyj@groupjhm.com>; <todd@groupjhm.com>;  
<darienhousingkm@yahoo.com>

**Subject:** "Gettysburg Tree"

Karen,

We appreciate all of your e-mails with suggestions and offers of help. However, arrangements have already been made to replace the "Gettysburg Tree" planted in 1992. Upon completion of the redevelopment of AON (June 2014) there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and that ceremony will also include the dedication of the memorial area where the plaques and new tree will be located. We will be purchasing the replacement tree at an appropriate time, and we will be providing a new plaque which will clearly identify the tree and speak to the history of the site. Governor Malloy has already agreed to attend and participate in this very special occasion.

The completion of the redevelopment of AON will be a momentous occasion. We are looking forward to a ceremony which will not only include the Governor, but Congressmen, State Legislators, the Board of Selectman, the Darien Housing Authority, and the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission, as well as anyone who participated in the planting of the 1992 "Gettysburg Tree" together with the Allen-O'Neill residents and Darien community.

At our meeting this past Tuesday night we discussed with the residents in attendance, repurposing the bricks from the apartment building. It was agreed to instruct the contractor to save bricks not damaged during demolition, some of which will be used as a decorative feature in the area where we will display the "Gettysburg Tree" and commemorative plaques. We also talked about the new community room as a place to display pictures and memorabilia which relate the story and history of the site.

It is also our intention to coordinate a meeting with Monument and Ceremonies. During our Tuesday meeting it became apparent no one was clear on the roles and responsibilities of Monuments and Ceremonies with regard to both of our properties, Allen -O'Neill and Old Town Hall Houses.

Again, thank you all for your interest and willingness to participate. As we get closer to the completion date of the housing units we will contact all parties with the details of the ribbon cutting and the dedication ceremony.

Cyndy

 New Message  
University of Phoenix

RE: Darien Fitch Home for Soldiers site...Darien

Hide Details

FROM: Bellantoni, Nicholas  
TO: karen and david polett

Thursday, June 7, 2012 9:45 AM

Inbox 3  
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Calendar  
Flickr  
My Cool Fonts  
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Karen, Thanks for the contact information. Cyndy Ashurne and I have exchanged messages and the construction crew will be alerted to the possibilities of artifacts being uncovered that might be associated with the Fitch Home. I am also researching the State Historic Preservation Office to see if they reviewed the project for cultural resources and what their recommendations might have been.

I leave for a two week vacation on Saturday with my kids/grandkids. Will hopefully be able to come down to Darien and meet with Cyndy and others on site.

Meanwhile, I will keep you posted should I hear further.

Best,  
Nick

Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD  
Connecticut State Archaeologist  
Military Veteran Working at UConn  
Connecticut Archaeology Center  
2019 Hillside Road, U-1023  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269-1023  
Phone: 860-486-5248  
Fax: 860-486-0827  
[www.cac.uconn.edu](http://www.cac.uconn.edu)

From: karen and david polett [mailto:harley87dp@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 8:17 AM  
To: Bellantoni, Nicholas  
Cc: Jayme Stevenson; [jashburne@aol.com](mailto:jashburne@aol.com); Phil Kraft; Linda Schwartz; [jgault@darienhistorical.org](mailto:jgault@darienhistorical.org)  
Subject: Re: Darien Fitch Home for Soldiers site...Darien

Our First Selectman is Jayme Stevenson; the Chairman of the Darien Housing Authority is Cindy Ashburne; and the Chairman of the Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is Phil Kraft. The Executive Director of the Darien Historical Society is John Gault. As I stated, the Darien Housing Authority is in charge of this project. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.  
Karen K. Polett

From: "Bellantoni, Nicholas" <[nicholas.bellantoni@uconn.edu](mailto:nicholas.bellantoni@uconn.edu)>  
To: karen and david polett <[harley87dp@yahoo.com](mailto:harley87dp@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2012 6:56 AM  
Subject: RE: Darien Fitch Home for Soldiers site...Darien

Karen, We did not know of the demolition of the Fitch Home for Soldiers. Is there someone in the town hall I should contact specifically for this project? Unfortunately, it is very difficult to do any historic preservation once they have started construction activities. We usually like to work before they start when the project is going through the town planning process - gives us more options to negotiate being on site. Once construction begins, there are a lot of issues (time, funding, safety, etc) that would need to be addressed.

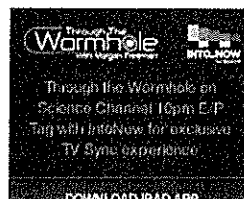
Nonetheless, I would be happy to look into it,

Nick

Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD  
Connecticut State Archaeologist  
Military Veteran Working at UConn  
CT State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center  
2019 Hillside Road, U-1023  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269-1023  
Phone: 860-486-5248  
Fax: 860-486-0827  
[www.cac.uconn.edu](http://www.cac.uconn.edu)

From: karen and david polett [[harley87dp@yahoo.com](mailto:harley87dp@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 9:16 PM  
To: Bellantoni, Nicholas  
Subject: Darien Fitch Home for Soldiers site...Darien

Dear Mr. Bellantoni,





Learn  
At University of  
Phoenix

Re: Darien Fitch Home for Soldiers site...Darien

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**FROM:** karen and david polett  
**TO:** Bellantoni, Nicholas  
**CC:** Jayme Stevenson

Thursday, June 7, 2012 10:07 AM

Thanks so much for contacting Cindy. I am on the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission in Darien and helped plant the "Gettysburg Tree" in 1992 near the Fitch monument. It replaced a tree from Little Round Top planted in 1925. The 1992 tree was mistakenly chipped about 2 weeks ago, so that prompted my pro active involvement to try to preserve anything else of historic value on the site. It is a state site so I hoped you might be interested. I am retired so please call when you plan a trip to Darien. I am available to help with a tour or whatever else you might need.  
Enjoy your vacation.  
Thank you very much!  
Karen

---

**From:** "Bellantoni, Nicholas" <nicholas.bellantoni@uconn.edu>  
**To:** karen and david polett <harley87dp@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 7, 2012 9:45 AM  
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Karen K. Polett

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www.DarienTimes.com/opinion

# OPINION

Page Four

The DARIEN TIMES

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

Founded October 21, 1993

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Joshua Fisher, editor

Susan Shultz, assistant editor

Steven Buono, sports editor

David DesRoches, reporter

Brian Gioiele, production coordinator

Elizabeth Côté, Lauren Spicehandler,  
account representatives

Mary Anne Hersam, vice president of sales

Jessica Perlinski, marketing director

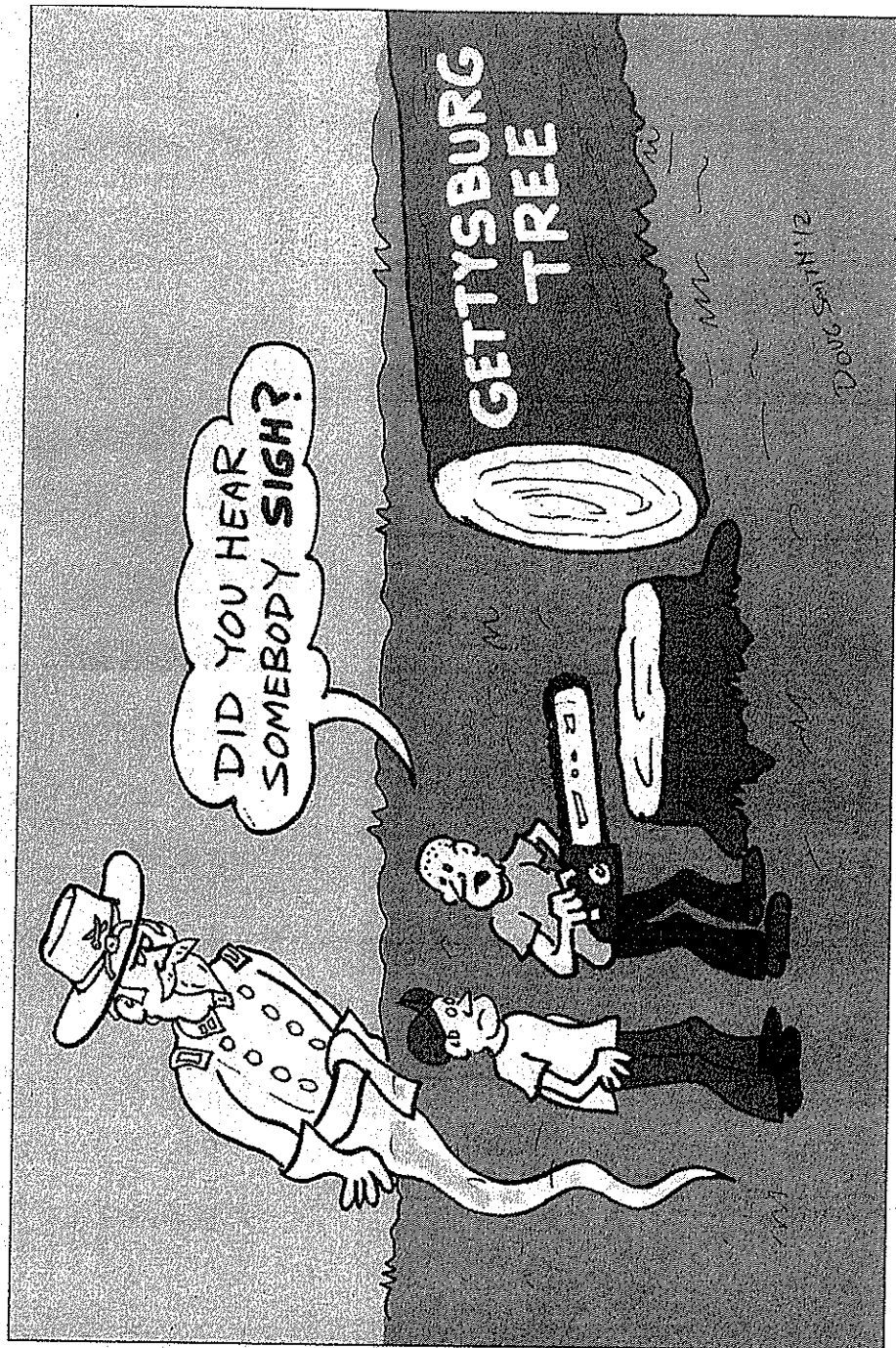
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Letters

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WHAT'S NEW INBOX (47) CONTACTS Re: Ken's report Re: AON Fw: Gettysburg ...

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Fw: Gettysburg Tree and the Garden Club of Darien

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FROM: Caulfield

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 11:03 AM

TO: harley87dp@yahoo.com

Inbox 9

Conversations

Drafts 3

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Spam

Trash 1

Folders

saved mail 3

Online Contacts

Facebook Friends

From: Caulfield

Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 10:42 AM

To: harley87dp@yahoo.com

Subject: Gettysburg Tree and the Garden Club of Darien

Dear Karen,

I am a member of the Garden Club of Darien. Our organization financially supports many civic projects on an annual basis and sponsoring the replacement of the "Gettysburg Tree" would be something that would tie into our mission to support conservation in our community. I would love to talk with you at your convenience. My phone number is 203-662-0141.

Thank you.

Kindest Regards,  
Carol Caulfield  
10 Wildest Road

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